(d) if so, the progress in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) During the summer season, many parts of the country experience intense heat wave conditions. In Andhra Pradesh, 1664 persons are reported to have died due to heat wave conditions during 2003.

(c) and (d) This being a State subject, it is primarily for the States to take steps to provide relief to the people. Assistance to the State Governments for relief is in accordance with the norms laid down by the Finance Commissions. As per the norms laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission, assistance from Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund is available only for specified calamities like earthquakes, floods, drought, fire, cyclones and hailstorms. The concerned State Government is to provide assistance from their own resources to the affected families in other contingencies like heat waves/ cold waves etc.

Multiplicity of authorities in Delhi

1101. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that multiplicity of authorities has become the bone of Delhi causing impediments to all developmental works including those relating to water, electricity, environment etc;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the woes of residents of Delhi who attribute the reason of the malady to this multiplicity; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) To remove the difficulties arising out of multiplicity of authorities, a proposal to confer statehood on Delhi is under consideration.